

“NMCB 4 RELIEF IS NO MIRAGE TO NMCB 74”

Story by CWO3 Darren Davis

CAMP FALLUJAH, IRAQ – U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SEVENTY-FOUR (NMCB 74) received U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR (NMCB 4) with open arms at Camp Fallujah, Iraq, as they arrived in to relieve the men and women of “Fearless 74”. Their arrival signaled the end of a highly successful deployment for NMCB 74.

Over the last 6 months NMCB 74 performed camp maintenance duties for the Marines and Seabees stationed in Camp Fallujah. They also worked on a number of humanitarian construction projects in the outlying areas of Fallujah, building side-by-side with Iraqi contracted laborers.

Before NMCB 4 could pick up where NMCB 74 left off, they had to complete a turn over process with the outgoing battalion. One of the key areas for any battalion turnover is the Battalion Equipment Evaluation Program (BEEP). The equipment management organizations, or Alfa Companies handle this program. Equipment Operator Senior Chief (SCW/SW) Christopher Moran and NMCB 74’s entire equipment management team worked hard preparing the Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE) for the BEEP process, ensuring a successful turnover.

Senior Chief Moran commented, “This was the most professional and smooth BEEP transition I have experienced in my 22 years of service.” Additionally he said, “I wish the men and women of NMCB 4 the best of luck for a safe and successful deployment.”

The tremendous efforts on the part of both battalions made it possible not only to complete the BEEP in short time, but also helped ensure NMCB 4’s Air Detachment

equipment was ready for immediate deployment in support of U.S. Marine Corps units serving in Iraq.

Just as NMCB 4's Air Det was quick to reap the benefits of a great turnover, so too was the Seabee Engineer Reconnaissance Team (SERT 4). SERT 74 was quick to pass on to SERT 4 the knowledge they gained in convoy tactics, techniques and procedures. Without this level of commitment from SERT 74, SERT 4 would have had to endure the "learn as you go" on the job training that puts lives at risk.

Additionally, the Operations, Administrative, Supply, Weapons, Communications, and Medical Departments received exceptionally thorough turnovers from their counterparts.

"Fabulous Four's" Advance Party arrived in Camp Fallujah with enthusiasm, drive, determination and a sincere desire to ensure that NMCB 74 redeployed to Gulfport, Miss. in a safe and timely manner. After performing magnificently in the face of great adversity, the men and women of NMCB 74 looked forward to seeing their loved ones again in homeport.